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southern regions, agriculture and the processing industry in the central part, and reindeer-breeding and trapping in the northern regions.

Particular attention is given in Yakutiya to transportation. The socialist reconstruction of the new Republic began with almost a total lack of roads. The chief means of transportation was always and is still by boat. During the Five-Year Plans the transportation system has undergone a radical reorganization. Whereas in 1917 the entire Lena fleet consisted of 37 outmoded steamers and 113 barges, by the beginning of World War II the Yakut Republic had 127 steamers and more than 500 barges.

Before the Revolution steamer traffic was restricted basically to the upper and lower regions of the Lena as far as the mouth of the Vilyuy. At the present time steamers sail the whole length of the Lena, Vilyuy, Aldan, Olekma, Amga, Chara, and Maya, and all the other major northern rivers.

The development of the Yakut rivers is directly connected with a very important measure adopted by the Soviet government, namely, the opening up of the Northern Seaway, which through the heroic efforts of polar explorers, sailors and fliers has been turned into a permanently operating route. In the 1920's the Vladivostok-Kolyma routes were reopened. In 1932 the icebreaker Sibiryakov made a historic journey by sailing directly and without a stop from Archangel to Vladivostok. The heroic trip made by the Chelyuskin (1933) proved the navigability of the Northern Seaway for conventional-type steamships. In 1936 there was opened a route along the river Yana, in 1937 the Anabar, and in 1938 the Olekma and the Indigirka. The opening up of the Northern Seaway sharply stepped up the carriage of freight to the northern regions of Yakutiya.

The opening up of navigation in northern Yakutiya helped the economic resuscitation of this region. From that time on, the mining and fishing industries began to develop and strengthen. Commodity turnover increased sharply as a result. Coal, timber, salt and food products were delivered to the lower regions of various rivers from Yakutiya. The river routes now being exploited stretch more than 9000 kilometers—almost a quarter of the circumference of the globe.

River traffic has also speeded up. Comfortable double-decker ships of the Volga type run from Osetrovo to Yakutsk, a distance of about 2000 kilometers, in only 5 days.

In 1952 the Lena River Steamship Line acquired new powerful diesel ships of the latest Soviet type.

The Lena River route is now linked to the Siberian Sea artery by a direct railroad line (from Tayshet to Osetrovo docks).

The construction of overland roads has become a matter of nationwide interest in Yakutiya. About 2500 kilometers of permanent highways with winter road camps have been built. The construction and operation of highways have involved tremendous difficulties, such as coping with snowdrifts, ice floes, and ice-covered snow. Of the motor highways linking Yakutiya with the outside world, a particularly important one is the Amur-Yakutsk Highway which connects Aldan, and in winter Yakutsk, with the Ussuriysk railroad.

At the present time freight is brought into Yakutiya by four different routes: The Upper Lena wharves (Kachug, Zhigalovo), the Osetrovo wharf, the Amur-Yakutsk Highway, and the Northern Seaway.

Aviation routes connect Yakutsk with Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk and Moscow. The local lines in operation are Yakutsk-Aldan, Yakutsk-Bulun-Tiksi, etc.

The centuries-old isolation of this region from the chief centers of the country is now a thing of the past. Extensive development has also

177 taken place in such forms of communication as radio, telegraph and tele-
206 phone. Compared with 1940 the number of radio points in 1962 was more
207 than doubled. By this time communication had been established between Yakutsk and rural localities and machine-tractor stations, and 225 nasleg soviets had been linked by telephone. Many rayons and nasleg soviets are now equipped with radios.

205 The extent of the postal routes is 65,000 kilometers, practically twice the length of the equator.

Towns and Cities

633 The capital of the Yakut ASSR is the city of Yakutsk, which used to be the oblast center. Here are concentrated the most important Yakut Republic offices, ministries, banks, scientific institutes, and higher and secondary schools. During the Soviet period Yakutsk has been turned into a major
[365] industrial center. The water system laid in Yakutsk has the deepest water-intake point in the world. The problem of obtaining subsoil water for this water system was an extremely difficult one because of the permafrost. Engineers worked hard to solve this problem even before the Revolution, though never successfully. Soviet technicians and working people have solved it. Subpermafrost water is now fed into the main water supply. Stone bathhouses, mechanized laundries, barbershops and other such enterprises for the personal use of the population did not come into being until the Soviet regime. The streets of the city are paved with wood blocks and sidewalks have been constructed. Yakutsk is rapidly developing.

Over the last few years Yakutsk has been changing from wooden buildings to brick and sometimes reinforced concrete buildings. Bus routes between the city and neighboring regions are now in operation.

871 In Yakutsk there are 22 secondary, seven-year and primary schools.
368 They are attended by about 9000 children. In the city there are 16 tekhnikums, various courses, and a pedagogical institute, a Yakut Theatre of Music and Drama, a Russian drama theatre, two movie houses and seven clubs. The Pushkin Science Library, the Yaroslavskiy Yakutsk Regional Museum and the Yakutsk Museum of Fine Arts are great favorites with the citizens.

743 There are hospitals in the city and it is also there that the research
744 institutes and laboratories are to be found. In 1947 a research base of the USSR Academy of Sciences was opened there, and in 1949 it was turned into the Yakutsk branch of the Academy. In the same year there was opened a Yakutsk branch of the Tuberculosis Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Agriculture

241 In pre-Revolutionary Yakutiya the poor and middle peasant families
233 totaled more than 80 percent of all households. One-seventh of all the
565 households were entirely without sowings, and many were only able to sow a few hundredths of a hectare each. Most of the households (97 percent) had to do without factory-made agricultural implements. Stockbreeding produced extremely poor results. The owners of large areas of land and abundant livestock i.e.,—the kulaks and toyons, grew rich, but not so much by raising the level of land cultivation and animal husbandry as by exploiting the poor and middle peasants.

reindeer-breeding collective farms there are now dairy and horse-breeding sections.

The Stalin Even-Yakut collective farm in the Nizhne-Kolymskiy Rayon (formerly known as the Sutanya-Udëran) is successfully developing reindeer-breeding alongside horse-breeding, fishing and hunting. The collective contains more than 17,000 reindeer. In 1955 more than 850 tsentners of such important species of fish as whitefish and baranatka were caught. In 1955, 215,000 rubles worth of furs were delivered to the State. The gross monetary income of this collective farm was 2,430,000 rubles; 1,423,000 rubles were distributed to the collective-farm members for labor units, and for each labor unit the payment was 17 rubles cash, 1.04 kg of meat and 720 g of fish. The monetary income per household averaged 24,000 rubles.

Despite the fact that the chief branches of industry of the northern farms have required periodic migration on the part of the population, all the farms have constructed settlements or collective-farm centers. As an example we can take the settlement of Kolymskaya, the center of the Turvaurgin collective farm. This center contains the headquarters of the farm administration, an incomplete secondary school with boarding facilities, a hospital, a shop, a house of culture with a library, a trading station, a power station, bathhouses, a dairy farm, and 50 standard farmhouses. The farm recently acquired an S30 tractor, a launch and two motorboats. In ethnic composition the Turvaurgin collective farm is multinational and consists of Chukchi, Yukagirs, Yakuts and Evenks.

New Way of Life

A considerable obstacle in the way of the implementation of cultural and public-health program in Yakutiya between 1920 and 1930 was the scattered nature of Yakut settlements due to the ancient occupation of pastoralism. One, two or three yurts together was the predominant type of "settlement." The combining of them into larger units was further required by the everyday farming needs of collective farms.

The construction of settlements under Yakutiyan conditions was a major achievement in socialist reconstruction of the Yakutiyan countryside. It provided an opportunity for installing radio and telephone on the farms and providing them with medical and cultural-educational institutions. In 1950 the construction of settlements in southern Yakutiya was by and large complete. The farm settlements are usually located on elevated riverbanks or by the shores of lakes and consist of several parallel streets. Generally speaking, timber houses rather than yurts are built in these settlements. The center is reserved for the school, collective-farm administrative offices, medical center and club. On many farms yurts are used as work premises. There are quite a few settlements with power stations. In the Megino-Kangalasskiy Rayon alone there are 14 farm power stations with a total output of more than 510 kilowatts. Radio-relay systems have been installed in many of the new settlements. The farmers live in the settlements when they are not out working.

Although several types of farmhouses have been developed, they are still far from perfect. The rigorous climate makes particular demands upon the housing construction in Yakutiya. Special forms of heating are used in the new houses, such as triple frames—the first frame is a single one, while the second is inserted during the winter and has two panes of

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glass, tambours (extra doors with an air lock in between) and zavalinkas (mounds of earth around the house). A common practice is to ice over the house for the winter with a mixture of snow and water. Double ceilings, double floors, horizontal flues and shutters are still used, although rather rarely. The brick or tile stove is sometimes combined with the traditional Yakut fireplace. In many houses there is an extra iron stove in addition to the brick stove.

The internal appearance of dwellings has also changed. The furniture known before to the Yakuts (tables, stools and benches) has become less massive and more varied. We now find bookshelves, chairs, small dressing-tables and mirrors. Factory-made crockery and utensils are encountered in every home. Clocks (including alarm clocks), writing materials, and books have become common, and phonographs are also sometimes found. In most houses the walls are adorned with posters, pictures of Communist Party leaders, photographs, bookshelves, and over the bed there is usually a rug made of skin from the reindeer's head, bead-embroidered saddlecloths, or else the walls are covered with cloth. The windows have curtains.

Tremendous changes have taken place in the way of life of the Yakuts. Many collective farms now have electricity and radio. Clean clothes, hot baths, and attention to their personal appearance are typical of most of the collective-farm members. There has been a change in interests, habits and way of life. The outlook of the population has broadened. Books can now be found in every house. In the settlements people enjoy movies, and attend lectures and discussions in the reading rooms. Young people take part in ski-races, chess and other sporting events. Amateur song and dance groups in the clubs are usually of interest to the whole settlement. The families are no longer isolated and no longer keep to themselves.

A typical innovation for city children is toys, such as figures of horses and cows, rubber dolls, rattles, clockwork trucks, and so on. In addition to these, we commonly find delicately carved wooden animals and tiny bows and arrows. In the schools and boarding facilities children amuse themselves with the most popular table games. In the spring and summer they play various games, including hide-and-seek and blind man's-buff.

A great deal has changed in the Yakut diet, as well.

It should be remembered that before the Revolution Yakutiya was a country of chronic famine. Most of the Yakut population suffered from starvation every year, particularly at the end of the winter and in spring. Bread has now become a normal food not only in the southern but also in the northern areas. Groats and macaroni are now part of the staple diet. The consumption of vegetables and potatoes has also considerably increased.

In many regions the collective farms grow cucumbers, radishes, cabbages, onions and beets. Vegetables are imported in the dehydrated form. Everywhere the population is amply provided with tea, sugar, and tobacco. There are bakeries at trading points in most settlements. Meat and fish are consumed by the Yakuts in large quantities, particularly in the northern regions, where they are the staple diet. In the southern regions an important part of the diet is dairy products. On account of the overall improvement in the living standards of the people, sapwood is no longer consumed as food. Nor do they eat pickled fish any more. Local traditions are still retained in the cooking of dairy products, meat and fish. In the northern regions meat is commonly undercooked. Milk is made into some curious dishes such as suorat, khayakh, chokhoon, *кобуур* and so forth. In a number of regions reindeer gristle is still eaten in the raw state as a delicacy, and so are the liver and bone marrow of this animal. Many families eat freshly